

The 12th RUSSIAN NATIONAL SHOW, Moscow 2014

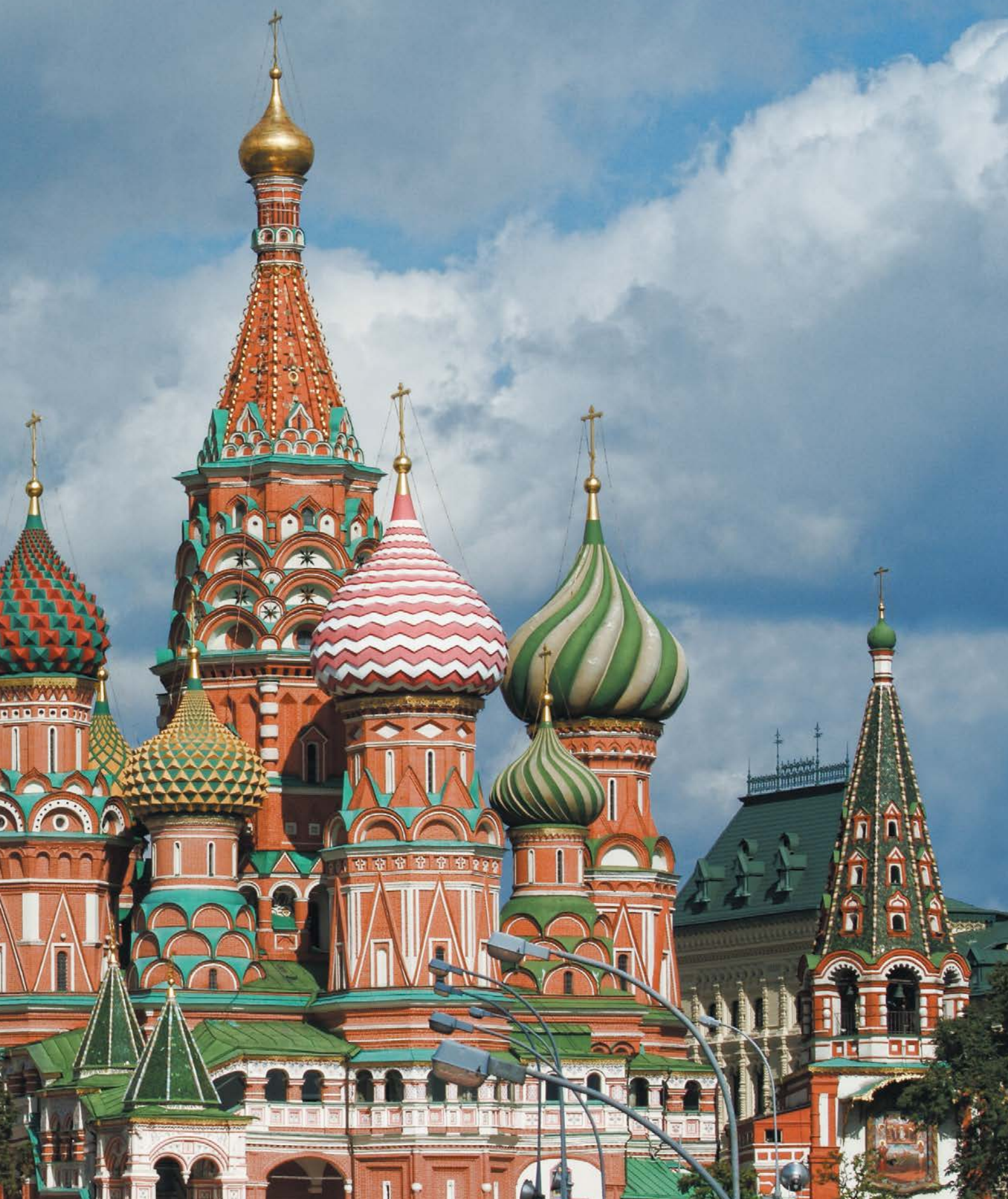
There were plenty of attractions for the participants and guests of the 12th Russian National Arabian Horse Championships (September 7th), which coincided with the Days of Moscow. Russia's capital celebrated its 867th anniversary and the wonderful weather encouraged both tourists and the city's inhabitants to come out onto the streets in great crowds. The Russian Nationals were held on the premises of the All-Russian Exhibition Center (Всероссийский выставочный центр), a huge exhibition and recreational complex, spread across 237 hectares and employing 3 thousand personnel. The complex was initially open to public in 1939 as an All-Union Agricultural Exhibition (Всесоюзная сельскохозяйственная выставка – ВСХВ), renamed in 1959 to the Exhibition of the Achievements of the National Economy of the USSR (Выставка достижений народного хозяйства – ВДНХ). The National Championships were part of a greater venue called “Konnaja Rossija”, which also included a trade fair – similarly to Verona and Paris, though on a much smaller scale – and the World Championships for Akhal-Teke Horses. The organizer of the whole event was the National Arabian Horse Society of Russia (NOAL, with president Igor Bochkarev and Dr.ssa Irina Stigler responsible for international cooperation of Noal).

Text by: Monika Luft

Photos: Ekaterina Druz, Monika Luft

Translation by: Joanna Krawczyk







Irina Stigler and her mother Elena Moleva

The competition saw a total of 29 horses (out of 32 entered), which is a good result compared to previous years, when 22 horses showed up in 2013 or just 15 in 2011. Four classes were held: for the



Aleksandr Klimuk, Jerzy Białobok, Nils Ismer (DC), Janice McRea

junior and senior mares, as well as for the junior and senior stallions. The top three horses from each class qualified for the podium. The judges – Janice McRea (USA), Jerzy Białobok (Poland), Aleksandr Klimuk (Russia) and Irina Stigler (Italy), who stood in for the Polish judge when there was a conflict of interest in the senior mares' class where horses bred by Michałów State Stud were competing – used the comparative method to choose the gold, silver and bronze medalists from among the three highest scored horses in class. There was also prize money: 1,000 euro for the gold, 500 for the silver and 300 for the bronze.

Such studs as Valentina, Equiline Lada-Konsul and Veles were most represented through their charges. Horses from Tersk were a no-show, probably due to the great distance, but also because this well-known stud, now privatized, is on the threshold of making important decisions regarding its future and direction that it should take.



All-Russian Exhibition Center

The public filled the stands and VIP tables to the brim, there were also plenty of photographers. The horses were more slender-looking than those seen at European shows and the foreign visitors were slightly surprised by their way of showing, which differed from what everyone is used to on the Old Continent. The horses rarely stood still, they were moving. But when they began to trot, the handlers immediately halted them. However already the previous day, during the Akhal-Teke championships, you could observe that this is common practice. The Akhal-Teke horses were let loose onto the arena, in Liberty style and were clearly not trained to extend their necks or pose like a statue.

The junior mares' class (1–3 year olds) was won by the year old **Ecstasy** (Ghazal Al Hummar – Edit Piaf/Pobieditel), bred and owned by KK Valentina and it was her who became Junior Champion Mare before her



Ekaterina Druz Horse Photography

Ester (Best in Show). On the left: Marina Romanova (Equiline Lada-Konsul) and Igor Bochkarev (NOAL). On the right Irina Stigler



Ekaterina Druz Horse Photography

stablemate, the also year old **Napoleonika** (Ghazal Al Hummar – Niksa/Karat). The sire of both fillies is the son of the Qatari-bred Shamekh Al Shaqab by Ansata Sinan. The bronze medal went to the two year old granddaughter of Laheeb, **Valeria** (Leran AA – MP Saghira/Maysoun) from Israel and owned by V.V. Minaev.

Also in the junior stallions' category the gold medal was awarded to a yearling. Here victorious was **Esenin** (Nubiec – Ezabella/Lumiar Amadeus), from second place in class. The dam of the UK-bred Ezabella is Janów's Epifraza by Pepton, a full sister to Ecaho. And so a third medal was claimed by Valentina Stud. The silver was awarded to class' winner, the grandson of WH Justice, the year old **Arni** (Nizami – Ariel/Aja Shakakhan), bred by B. Markarian and owned by S. Ermolov. The bronze

was claimed by the 2 year old Israeli-bred **Prince of Galilee** (Nader Al Jamal – Nawal AA/Al Maraam), owned by E. Goman.



Definitely standing out in the senior mares' class (4 years old and above), especially due to their shapely heads, two charges of Michałów: **Złota Baśń** (Gaspar – Złota Orda/Pesal) and **Karolina** (Laheeb – Kwesta/Pesennik), owned by M. Timin. Last year both of them were Silver Champions. This time in the finals the first again took the silver and the second one – the bronze. They were bested by the perhaps not as typey, but correctly built, flea-bitten **Ester** (Toreador – Esmeralda/Esplendor) from Equiline Lada-Konsul, a representative of a Russian racehorse family. Her sire Toreador (b. 1995), a half-brother to Derby winner and numerous stakes winner (Guineas, Topol Stake, Great All Russia Stakes) Trepet (by Parusnik), also had a successful track career. And he did not lack beauty, being a son of Drug, named European Racehorse of the Year in 1990 and 1991, a winner of the Russian Derby, Coupe d'Europe (Evry) and the Al Nayan International



(Kempton Park, England), as well as 1990 European Champion (Lier, Belgium). His sons were victorious at the track (Madiar, Matador) and the show arena (Morjak, Padisah, Abhat).





Among the senior stallions triumphed (and also took the trophy for Best Head) the Tersk-bred **Nizami** (WH Justice – Nairobi/Balaton), shown by the reliable Jan Calis and owned by Stacey Shreider. The

victorious stallion is the sire of the earlier awarded Arni. The silver went to the Israeli-bred **Leran AA** (Laheeb – Latifah AA/Al Maraam), owned by V.V. Minaev, the gold medalist from last year and the sire of Bronze Champion Valeria. The bronze was handed to the sire of the victorious yearlings, **Ghazal Al Hummar** (Shamekh Al Shegab – Reem Al Naseer/Mujahid),



Złota Baśń, Silver Champion Mare



Ekaterina Druz Horse Photography

descending from Jordan and owned by Valentina Stud, located about 100 km from Moscow, not far from the city of Ruza. In the final showdown for the Best in Show title emerged Ester, to the great joy of her breeder and owner of Equeline Lada-Konsul, Marina Romanova. The

stud, consisting of 20 broodmares, is located near Abinsk of Krasnodar Krai, known also as the Kuban region (the name taken from the Kuban River). The most known city of this region, located in the picturesque landscapes of the Black Sea and the Sea of Azov, is Sochi, the city of Winter Olympic Games 2014.

What does the future hold for the Russian National Championships? "Unfortunately there are not a lot of quality horses left... It will need time, but the market can be very big and I am working on it. Let's say we're working in small steps!" says Irina Stigler with a moderate optimism. The hope that the show will grow is not unjustified.

Ecstasy, Gold Champion Filly



Ekaterina Druz Horse Photography

There were a lot of Middle Eastern sponsors this year: Al Khalediah Stables (the main sponsor, patron of the show), Albidayer Stud, Al Shaqab Stud, Al Muawd Stud, Dubai Stud, Ajman Stud and Al Nayfat Stud.

"The Russian Tersk Stud and other breeders were very famous in the past and big amount of money was paid for Russian horses. After many years of stagnation the breeding program was suffering a lot and the horses were receiving poor treatment – said Irina Stigler in her interview for Tutto Arabi. "But I think that now people like Igor Bochkarev are investing money and time in development. Next year we would like to organize a big international event, probably in Sankt Petersburg to give more vision to Russian breeders. Russian people like to read, they remember the history, they look back and into the future. The tradition is a living tradition, it's not dead at all. In some years they will be very competitive. Education needs time but some day the market will be much more open". 📷